

REMARKS

Entry of Amendment and IDS

As Applicants are filing a RCE herewith, this amendment and the accompanying IDS should be entered and considered by the Examiner at this time.

Double Patenting - Non-Statutory

The Examiner now has the following double patenting rejections:

(1) Claims 21-24, 76, 77, and 85-100 are rejected on the grounds of non statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claim 1 of U.S. 6,580,475 in view of Yokomizu (JP 10-073813), Nagayama (US 5,680,187), Kanemoto (US 5,493,429) and Yoneya (US 6,300,926).

(2) Claims 21-24, 76, 77, and 85-100 are rejected on the grounds of non statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claim 1 of U.S. 7,084,019 in view of Yokomizu, Nagayama, Kanemoto and Yoneya.

(3) Claims 21-24, 76, 77, and 85-100 are rejected on the grounds of non statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claim 1 of co-pending application 11/460,105 in view of Yokomizu, Nagayama, Kanemoto and Yoneya.

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

While Applicants traverse these rejections, in order to advance the prosecution of this application, Applicants are filing herewith a terminal disclaimer over the '475 patent, the '019 patent, and the '105 application and terminal disclaimer fee. Accordingly, these rejections have been overcome, and it is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

Amendments to Claims

In order to clarify the claimed invention, Applicants are amending independent Claims 91 and 92. These amendments are supported by, for example, Embodiment 7, page 34, line 10 - page 36, line 15 in the specification and Fig. 15 of the present application.

Applicants are also correcting a minor informality in Claims 22-24.

Hence, no new matter is being added. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that these amendments be entered and allowed.

New Claims

Applicants are also adding new dependent Claims 101-102. As these are dependent claims, they are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above for the independent claims. These new claims are also supported by, for example, Embodiment 7, page 34, line 10 - page 36, line 15 in the specification and Fig. 15 of the present application.

As a RCE is being filed herewith, it is respectfully requested that these new claims be entered and allowed.

If any fee should be due for these new claims, please charge our deposit account 50/1039.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants are submitting an information disclosure statement (IDS) herewith. As a RCE is being filed herewith, it is respectfully requested that this IDS be entered and considered prior to the issuance of any further action on this application.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and should be allowed.

If any fee should be due for this amendment, the new claims, the IDS, and/or the RCE, please charge our deposit account 50/1039.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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